

Respected guests of eminence, the ever-inspiring faculty and members of the Takshashila Team and co-passengers in this **Fellowship of learning at Takshashila** – Good Evening to everyone.

In the words of a man who inspires me, there are 2 Great Sins that a Nation can commit – **Avoidable Suffering and Unfulfilled Potential** – India Today, is perhaps guilty of both and the key to addressing both is knowledge and inspired action – **Takshashila to me is about Knowledge and Inspired Action.**

It is my privilege to be here today and share the experiences I've had over the last 3 years and in doing so, **I venture to say that I represent in some ways the collective experience of everyone who has ever done a course at Takshashila.**

I first learnt of Takshashila when I read an article that Nitin wrote on the state of higher education in India – I was busy in my world then – I come from the Game Development Industry where I spent a decade and half - I was consumed by the exciting creative work we were doing then – Making Games, talking Design and Systems, Art, Product Analytics, Marketing and Production – It was exhilarating but there was a void. I had this nagging feeling that what I'm doing does not impact the real world and especially India in any significant way and I was looking at ways to try and architect substantial impact – I knew I had work to do but didn't know the means that converged with where I was in my life then.

I had developed a certain perspective from my own readings and life experiences, but I lacked the structured understanding to undergird any action. When I read what Nitin wrote, I realized what I was missing – I was missing a meditation on issues of substantial public interest in a nuanced yet structured way. In other words, I lacked an awareness of what I now know is called 'Public Policy'

**Takshashila the meditation you do to earn an opinion about things and for people like me who've woken up late to this area, it is perhaps also a bit of penance.**

The interest prompted me to apply for GCPP – The GCPP course equipped me with a toolkit required to navigate the policy space – A box of lens if you will. It piqued my interest and so when PGP was announced, I promptly applied for it – I wanted to move from Woodstock to try and be like Pink Floyd.

**Takshashila is the road you take for a potential career in Public Policy and that road has been designed with great care and passion to elevate the perspectives and foster critical thinking.**

The quality of content, the excellence of the faculty and the rigor of work and most importantly the quality of the peer network are the unique elements that populate the Takshashila architecture. I think that the best testimony I can personally give Takshashila is that they have equipped me so well that I can respectfully explain my agreements and disagreements, often times even with my faculty. **That, to me is Education.**

I would like to wish Takshashila all the best – Anyone who has tried working through the maze that is the higher education in India, would know the true value of what Takshashila provides.

I would also like to use this opportunity to thank all my batch members who have made my experience stellar – Lastly, I would like to thank the people behind Takshashila – Your support makes the education required for building the intellectual foundations for Nation Building accessible - Your support gives flight to the aspirations of people like me.

This is still a road less travelled and we need everyone's support to change that.

**Thank You**